

--1. (Amended) A method for characterising nucleic acid molecules, which comprises the steps of:

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- i) introducing a modified base which is a substrate for a DNA glycosylase into a DNA molecule;
- ii) excising the modified base by means of said DNA glycosylase so as to generate an abasic site;
- iii) cleaving the DNA at the abasic site so as to generate and release an extendible upstream DNA fragment having a 3' hydroxyl terminus; and
- iv) incubating the released extendible upstream DNA fragment in the presence of an enzyme allowing for extension thereof and an additional template nucleic acid and analysing resultant fragment(s).

D2

12. (Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the extendible upstream fragment is incubated in step iv) with the polymerase in the presence of one or more nucleotide(s).--

D3